

RENEWABLE ENERGY VOCABULARY

Energy

The capacity to do work or the ability of something (motion, heat, light, or sound) to do work. It is transferred from one form to another, but it is never created or destroyed.

Primary Energy Source

Direct energy sources such as coal, oil, natural gas, and hydro power.

Non-renewable Energy

Resources that are finite, like coal and natural gas.

Renewable Energy

Resources that are "infinite" or replenish themselves naturally.

Types of Renewable Energy

Hydropower

Generated from the flow of moving water.

Geothermal Energy

Generated from Earth's natural heat.

Solar Energy

Generated from the sun that is captured and converted and stored via technology by solar panels.

Wind Energy

Generated from the movement of air. The kinetic energy is converted into electricity by wind turbines.

Hydrothermal Energy

The most common type of geothermal energy. Involves circulation of steam-rich hot water which powers turbines which convert the energy into electricity.

Energy Efficiency

The amount of energy that is not wasted or lost.

Energy Conservation

Actions taken to use less energy. Includes energy audits, weatherstripping doors, and using energy-efficient appliances.

Secondary Energy Source

Electricity, heat, or steam. Derived from primary energy sources.

"Saving" energy

To not use energy unnecessarily. Turning off your light is a way of saving energy.

Wasting energy

To use energy unnecessarily.

Carbon Footprint

The amount of CO2 (greenhouse gas) that is produced directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, or product.